

Conclusions and Future Plans

Many important advances in liver disease research were made in 2005, the first year after publication of the Trans-NIH Action Plan for Liver Disease Research. Progress was observed in each of the 16 topic areas and toward many of the 214 research goals. While none of the listed research goals was completely achieved, many have had important advances and are likely to be fully accomplished in the next few years.

This progress review will be used by the Institutes and Centers of the NIH, as well as other Federal Agencies involved in liver disease research, to plan initiatives for the year 2006 and beyond. An annual review of the Action Plan is conducted yearly by the Liver Disease Subcommittee of the Digestive Diseases Interagency Coordinating Committee. This document will be used at the time of this meeting. At five and ten years following release of the Action Plan, it will be reviewed more formally by a larger group, consisting of outside experts, concerned lay individuals, NIH staff, and representatives from the 16 Working Groups on the Action Plan, in order to assess progress and the need for further efforts in promoting specific areas of liver disease research.